
Introduced by Senator Wolk

February 21, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 89—Relative to Lynch Syndrome Hereditary Cancer Public Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 89, as introduced, Wolk. Lynch Syndrome Hereditary Cancer Public Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize and support the importance of public awareness and education regarding Lynch syndrome by declaring March 22, 2014, as Lynch Syndrome Hereditary Cancer Public Awareness Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Lynch syndrome is caused by a genetic defect to
2 a mismatch repair gene which is intended to correct errors which
3 occur in DNA replication; and
4 WHEREAS, These errors create a very high lifetime risk of
5 contracting various cancers, including up to 82 percent for
6 colorectal cancer and 60 percent for endometrial cancer, as well
7 as higher than average risk of cancers of the ovaries, the pancreas,
8 the bladder, the kidney, the gastric tract, the hepatobiliary tract,
9 the prostate, the breast, the skin, and the brain; and
10 WHEREAS, These cancers often occur at a much younger than
11 average age and are often aggressive leading to cancer metastases
12 in two to three years, as opposed to spontaneous cancers; and
13 WHEREAS, One in every 440 persons are projected to be
14 affected by Lynch syndrome, which includes approximately 86,450
15 Californians; and

1 WHEREAS, Less than 5 percent of those persons are currently
2 diagnosed; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2013, in the State of California, it was projected
4 that 14,115 new cases of colorectal cancer were expected to occur,
5 and 6,250 cases of uterine cancer were expected to occur, of which
6 3 to 5 percent of those cases would be the direct result of Lynch
7 syndrome; and

8 WHEREAS, Genetic counseling and testing could identify these
9 individuals and afford the opportunity for preventative measures
10 of annual cancer screenings in which these cancers could be
11 removed or treated before becoming life threatening; and

12 WHEREAS, These interventions are the closest thing to the
13 equivalent of a cure of Lynch syndrome hereditary cancers and
14 can protect families and save lives; and

15 WHEREAS, Education and public awareness can encourage
16 individuals to learn their family histories of cancer and discuss
17 them with their physicians, thereby saving tens of thousands of
18 California lives from the threat of hereditary cancers; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognize and support
22 the importance of public awareness and education regarding Lynch
23 syndrome by declaring March 22, 2014, as Lynch Syndrome
24 Hereditary Cancer Public Awareness Day; and it be further

25 Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
26 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.